000 and Constantinople. The proof of Illyricum's
• 631 rising importance came when Diocletian made Illyricum one of[1] the four prefectures into which the empire was divided. Each of these was governed by a *praefectus praetorio.* This prefecturate of Illyricum consisted of Pannonia, Noricum, Crete and the Balkan peninsula except Thrace, which belonged to the prefecturate of the East. Until 379 Illyricum was included in the western partition of the empire, but in this year eastern Illyricum was annexed to the prefecturate of the East. This new frontier was a natural and logical one in so far as it corresponded to the line of demarcation between Latin and Greek-speaking people as it even now sets the boundary which separate Latin and Greek Christianity in the Balkan peninsula.

[1] [i.e., Roman Empire--Analyst]

Epirus

THE southern part of the Kingdom of Albania of today was the ancient Epirus. This territory was bounded on the north by the Ionian Sea and on the south by the Ambracian Gulf. Its landward sides were next to Illyria, Macedonia and Thessaly. The terrain is essentially mountainous. About the fourth century before Christ these Epirots were divided in fourteen tribes. Epirus at this time exerted no small influence on Thessaly through the oracle of Dodona. Historically, the part of Epirus was passive. Epirus was divided into the smaller kingdoms of Molossia, Thesprotia, Chaonia, etc., which were formed into an Epirotic League.

The chieftains of Molossia, who dominated all Epirus, claimed to be descended from Pyrrhus, son of Achilles, who settled in the country after the fall of Troy. (Plutarch also relates that Achilles was known in this country under the name of "Aspetos" which in Albanian means "swift.") Upon Pyrrhus' death his kingdom was transmitted to Molossus, his son by Andromache.

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

000 (Ministria Komonda e Përgjithshme e Mprojtjes Kombëtare).

631 The administration of interior affairs of the State are based on the laws of May 13, 1928. The State is divided into 193 communes, administered by ten Prefectures. These are: Tirana, Durazzo, Scutari, Dibra, Kosova, Elbasan, Korça, Berat, Vlona and Gjinokastra. The prefectures are assisted by 31 sub-prefectures. The centrum is the Ministry of Interior Affairs at Tirana. Every prefecture has attached an administrative council composed of the Prefect as President (Chairman) of the Council, the Mayor, and the next high official of the prefecture are members in addition to the four aldermen elected by each commune for two years. The sub-prefectures are the assisting organs of the prefectures. Prefects, Sub-Prefects and the Mayors are appointed by the Albanian Government and are State officials.

Villages with more than 2,500 population are designated as communes; villages with less population are attached to communes for administrative purposes.

692 At the seat of every prefecture exists a Superior Court, with appellate jurisdiction,

4: Garnett B-4, 5 (ca. 1880) 1891
EG1 Albania EG1

summits are clad in eternal snows, but at lower elevations stretch vast forests of pine and other trees, and rich pasturages on which the sheep and cattle of the Ghegs roam in summer. The land is cultivated to any considerable extent only in the south, where the climate is more suited to the production of crops, and the character of the people to the pursuit of agriculture.

Albania is divided into two *vilayets*, or provinces, called after the names of their chief towns, Scutari and Ioannina, the residences of the Ottoman Governors. The former, which is also called Northern Albania, is inhabited chiefly by the Ghegs and Miridites, and the latter by the Tosks, Khams, and Liaps, all of whom, however, are proud to call themselves by the national name of Skipetar.

Though nominally brought under the Turkish yoke and partially converted to Islam in the fifteenth century, after an heroic struggle of twenty-five years' duration under the famous Skanderbeg,[1] the Albanians long maintained a sort of semi-independence. As Moslems, they fought under their own leaders in the armies of the Sultans, who esteemed them among their bravest soldiers, and rewarded their services with numerous privileges and grants of property. The warlike Albanians were consequently never in spirit a conquered race, and the old feudal social system, which they were still able to maintain, aided by the nature of their country, made it occasionally possible for the chieftains to throw off, for a time at least, the authority of the Sublime Porte. The most

[1] "*Iskender Bey*, the Lord Alexander."

[Constitution]

ARTICLE 65

645

The various ministries of the government are:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of the Interior
3. Ministry of National Defense
4. Ministry of Justice
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Education
7. Ministry of Economy
8. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
9. Ministry of Public Works
10. Ministry of Health

ARTICLE 66

The government may appoint a special Council of Ministers to deal with questions of national economy and defense.

The decree by which this Council is appointed shall determine its organization and scope.

TITLE III

Organs of the Local Governmental Units

ARTICLE 67

631

The people's councils are the governmental units in rural districts, communes, subprefectures, and prefectures.

[666]

The people's councils are elected directly by the people: those of the rural districts for two years and those of the communes, subprefectures, and prefectures, for three years.

The people's councils of the communes, subprefectures, and prefectures hold regular meetings according to special regulations.

ARTICLE 68

632

623

The people's councils direct their own administrative affairs, are responsible for economic and cultural matters within their jurisdiction, maintain order, see that the laws

and his assistants are appointed by the People's Convention. 693
District attorneys of the prefectures and subprefectures [646]
are appointed by the Attorney General.

ARTICLE 86

All district attorneys are independent of the local governmental units and are responsible only to the Attorney General, from whom they receive orders and instructions.

ARTICLE 87

District attorneys are authorized to initiate penal actions [692]
and also to exercise the right of appeal as well as the right to intervene during a judicial or administrative trial. District attorneys can exercise the right of appeal against summary decisions of the courts and other administrative organs when such decisions are illegal.

ARTICLE 88

The district attorney of the military courts of the national [701]
army of the People's Republic of Albania and other military attorneys are appointed by the Commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Republic.

TITLE V

Relation Between the Executive and Administrative Departments

ARTICLE 89

The Presidium of the People's Convention may annul or 642
suspend decrees, instructions, and decisions of the government when they are unconstitutional and illegal.

The government may annul or suspend decrees, ordinances, instructions and decisions of ministers when they are contrary to the laws, decrees, instructions and decisions of the government.

ARTICLE 90

The Presidium of the People's Convention and the higher 643
people's councils may suspend any illegal or irregular act of 631
the lower people's councils.

[Constitution]

643 631 The government or the ministers may annul or suspend any illegal or irregular act of the executive committees. The higher executive committees have the same right over the lower executive committees.

The people's councils may annul or suspend any illegal or irregular act of their own executive committees.

The government and the executive committees of the higher people's councils may suspend the execution of every illegal or irregular act of the lower people's councils or may propose the annulment of such acts.

ARTICLE 91

The Presidium of the People's Convention and the higher people's councils may dissolve the lower people's councils and authorize new elections. Likewise they may suspend executive committees of the lower people's councils and order elections of new executive committees.

TITLE VI

The National Army

ARTICLE 92

701 The National Army is the armed force of the People's Republic of Albania. Its duty is to defend the independence of the state and the freedom of the people.

The army defends the frontiers of the state and guarantees internal peace and security.

ARTICLE 93

The Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the People's Republic of Albania is appointed by the People's Convention.

The Supreme Commander directs all the armed forces of the People's Republic of Albania.

PART THREE

186 *The Seal, Flag, and Capital City*

ARTICLE 94

The seal of the People's Republic of Albania depicts a field

10: Hasluck F-5 (1926-1939)1954 EGl Albania EGl

CHAPTER II

THE UNWRITTEN LAW IN OUTLINE

To ensure for all, irrespective of their individual material wealth, a fair share of the essential grazing, arable land and irrigation, there has grown up a corpus of Unwritten Law. This was evolved at some unknown date by the mountaineers, as part of the legal framework which they had devised for every aspect of their life. They evolved all their laws—social, administrative, or pastoral—unaided. For many centuries before the Turks arrived in the fifteenth century, the country was split up into a number of principalities, none of which was strong enough for long to subject a neighbour to its rule. Though the Turks remained for four and a half centuries, they could never exert more than a nominal authority outside the chief towns. If they sent a punitive column into the interior, the people living in the mountains took evasive action, retreating to some peak until the inevitable departure of the intruders; their wealth was so small that they could carry or drive off most of it to their refuge, and so lost little from the raid. If the Turks sent tax or police officials, they fired on them at the first defile as a warning to return to their offices in town. There were no roads along which forces strong enough to be effective could march, in order to reduce them to real submission. The Turkish government, unable to enforce its will, accepted the situation and left the mountaineers to govern themselves, as they had presumably done under their native princes and chiefs. The first all-weather road to be built in North Albania was constructed in 1916 by the Austro-Hungarian armies during their temporary occupation; it ran from Shkodër to Durrës, with a branch to Tirana.

Every type of unwritten law has been constantly recast, added to, and restated down the centuries by a body of experts drawn from the rank of rulers. This rank exists because the mountaineers came to realize that an entity which is divided against itself cannot stand. Consequently, in every social unit—in house and village as in tribe or group of villages—the principle of subordination to a supreme head was accepted. In a household the headship is hereditary, with an important qualification. As the mountaineers are aware that

10:Hasluck F-5 (1926-1939)1954 EGl Albania EGl

CHAPTER XV

ASSEMBLIES AND THEIR WORK

623 634 619 Assemblies sometimes dealt with internal matters such as criminal trials, formulation of laws, local administration, and sometimes with the external relations of the community. Internal affairs were dealt with, according to their gravity, by the tribe, village or kin, but a plenary assembly had to be called to consider foreign affairs.

619 669 During the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth century the northern tribes of Albania were singly or collectively in constant opposition to Turkish sovereignty, and plenary assemblies were summoned by tribes whenever they planned to break out into open revolt. Earlier in 1855 and 1862 there had been attacks on the Montenegrins by the Mirditë, which had followed on plenary assemblies of the Mirditë tribes.

In 1881 the Albanians of Kosovë formed the League of Prizren in order to struggle more effectively for independence of Turkey. [631] All over Kosovë and what afterwards became the kingdom of Albania plenary meetings were held by tribes, and, where these did not exist as in south Albania, by districts, to decide on whether to join this League or not. Again in 1908, as Miss Durham relates,[1] the northern tribes held plenary meetings about accepting the new [721] Turkish constitution. The Albanian attack on the Turkish garrisons in Skoplje and adjacent towns, that began the Balkan war of 1912, was prefaced by general assemblies of every tribe in Kosovë and north Albania. In the summer of 1914, when Esad Pashë Toptani revolted against Prince William of Wied, then *Mbret* (king) of Albania, his supporters raised central Albania in his favour by carrying the Koran in one hand and a crucifix in the other to plenary meetings of the villages and bidding the Assembly, generally consisting of Moslems only, choose between the Moslem Esad and the Christian 'Mbret'. In 1942 a plenary meeting of all Mat was convened by the subprefect of Mat in the hope of enforcing obedience to the Italian government of the day. The decisions reached at the meeting were embodied in a document

[1] *Some Tribal Origins* etc., p. 120, n. 1.

11: U. S. G-4 (no date) 1954 EGI Albania EGI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of Intelligence Research

Intelligence Report

No. 6628 Date: July 16, 1954

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF ALBANIA

Abstract

●631 New local administrative divisions, details on which have just been made available though the receipt of the Albanian Official Gazette, were set up in Albania in July 1953 in conjunction with a general reorganization of the national government. This move followed the pattern set in the USSR and some other European satellites after Stalin's death. The administrative reorganization, the third since the Albanian Communists assumed control in 1944, was intended to give the central government more direct control over the local units. Elections for the new local bodies were held in March and April of this year.

I. REORGANIZATION OF JULY 1953

A Party-government decree of July 1953 called for reorganization of the administrative divisions of the country in order "to create the possibilities for a more operational direction" of the local authorities by the central government through decentralization of some functions of the latter.

To implement this decision, the People's Assembly on August 1, 1953 approved Law No. 1707 amending Article 71 of the Constitution and designating the People's Councils (Keshilla Popullore) as the organs of state power in villages, localities, cities, districts, and regions. These Councils were to be elected by popular vote for a term of three years. The law also authorized the Presidium of the Assembly to dissolve the People's Councils of localities, cities, and districts existing under the old administrative set-up and to appoint provisional executive committees for the newly created regions. These committees were to exercise the functions of the People's Councils until new elections were held.

[redacted]

by the Division of Research for USSR and Eastern Europe

631 On the basis of the amended Article 71 of the Constitution the Presidium of the Assembly on August 20 issued Decree No. 1716 stating that the People's Republic of Albania is divided into regions (qarqe), districts (rrethe), cities (qytete), localities (lokalitete), and villages (fshatra). The decree listed 10 regions, 35 districts, 4 cities with the rank of districts, 47 localities, 9 cities with the rank of locality, 2,609 villages, 11 cities with the rank of village, and 48 city wards with the rank of villages (See summary table listing various categories.)

The 4 cities with the rank of districts are Durres, Korce, Shkoder, and Tirana; the 9 cities with the rank of locality are Berat, Lushnje, Stalin Town, Kavaje, Elbasan, Gjirokaster, Pogradec, Vlore, and Fier; the 11 cities with the rank of village are Peshkopi, Shijak, Pogin, Permet, Delvine, Sarande, Tepelene, Bilish, Kukes, Lesho (Lesh), and Kruje.[1]

II. BACKGROUND ON ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATIONS

The reorganization of the administrative divisions of 1953 was the third such measure taken by the Tirana Communist regime since the end of the war. The first measure was taken on November 6, 1947, when Law No. 846 was adopted, providing for the formation of administrative divisions of the country on the Soviet pattern. On the basis of that law, there were created 20 city, 573 locality, and 2,601 village People's Councils (Soviets).

The second reorganization occurred on March 11, 1949, when the People's Assembly passed Law No. 684 on the basis of which 25 districts, one city (Tirana), 185 localities, and 2,597 villages were created.[2]

The latest reorganization was taken in conjunction with the contraction and centralization of the national government, which in turn followed similar steps taken after Stalin's death in the USSR and in some of the other European satellites. Although the official announcement in Albania claimed that the reorganization of the local

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1. Law No. 1707 and Decree No. 1716 were published in Gazeta Zyrtare (Official Gazette), No. 14 of September 17, 1953. The decree contains a complete list of regions, districts, cities, localities, villages and city wards with the rank of village.
2. For further details, cf. DRE-IR-EER-42, New Administrative Divisions in Albania, June 8, 1949, OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

631 governmental units was intended to decentralize some of the functions of the national government and grant more competences to the local authorities, in reality the aim was for more direct ("operational") control of the local government by Tirana. This was indicated by the reduction in the number of highest local government bodies from 26 districts and one city to 10 regions. Local elections for the new administrative divisions were held in March and April 1954.

State--PD, Wash.,D.C.

SUMMARY TABLE OF ALBANIAN REGIONS, DISTRICTS, LOCALITIES, AND VILLAGES

(Based on 1953 Administrative Reorganization)

Regions (Qarqe)	Districts (Krethe)	Cities with rank of districts	Localities (Lokalitete)	Cities with rank of locality	Villages (Fshatra)	Cities with rank of village	City wards with rank of village
Berat	5	—	3	3	370	—	5 + 2 = 7 [a]
Diber	5	—	3	—	228	1	
Durres	3	1	2	1	135	1	6 + 3 = 9 [b]
Elbasan	5	—	3	1	296	1	4
Gjirokaster	6	—	6	1	397	4	5
Korye	8	1	6	1	348	1	5
Kukes	3	—	5	—	154	1	
Shkoder	8	1	6	—	313	1	7
Tirane	5	1	11	—	210	1	
Vlore	5	—	2	2	218	—	7 + 4 = 11 [c]
	53	4	47	9	2609	11	48

a. 5 wards for the city of Berat and 2 for the city of Lushnje.
b. 6 wards for the city of Durres and 3 for the city of Kavaje.
c. 7 wards for the city of Vlore and 4 for the city of Fier.

lt U. S. G-4 (no date) 1954 EGI Albania EGI

625 did, it let in new traders, craftsmen, and government officials, by the mere fact that the gendarmes secured the road and put down banditry.

631 643 In a vain attempt to deal the tribal system a deathblow, King Zog abolished all of the old divisions and boundaries, and all of the old system of government. He divided Albania into provinces, deliberately cutting across tribes and *bairaks* and ignoring natural geographical frontiers as completely as did the 1913 boundary commission.[1] Kukës and Peshkopia became centers of administration, as did a remote hamlet in Mati named Bureli. In these new places he set up prefects and secretaries and soldiers.

124 We measured one "secretary of commune" in Mirdita, whom the tribesmen ignored. He was a native of Elbasan. He employed a local man to guard the telephone line, his only link with the extra-feudal world. In Bureli we measured a secretary of court and a schoolteacher, both Mati natives. Others whom we did not measure were outsiders. In Kukës we measured a government clerk, a schoolteacher, and a turnkey in the jail. In Peshkopia our score was 3 government clerks, 2 Big Dibra men and one local; a secretary of court, from Big Dibra; and a local country schoolteacher.

These 7 civil service employees whom we included in our series were all the products of the imposition of Zog's government on the Mountain Ghegs. Of these only 4 came from outside the area. Three of these were part of the group that fled Big Dibra after 1913.

000 The history of the mountain people of northern Albania since 1930, while interesting, is beyond the scope of this report. Some later anthropologist may study it with profit to discover the changes, technological, institutional, and anatomical, which may have taken place since our series was measured. Before moving on, we offer the following summary of the

105 preceding chapters:[2]

1. As far as we know these mountains were uninhabited before 500 B.C. They were first effectively settled at this time or a little later by Illyrian-speaking Hallstatt Iron Age people moving southward and eastward from Bosnia.

2. The majority of the Hallstatt people in

[1] [See cat 116, p. 46a -- Analyst]

[2] [See cat 116, pp. 3 b-46a -- Analyst] - 47a